

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-09

DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 SY-04

TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-05 OES-05 OMB-01 AGR-10 AID-05

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1023

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FROM: CND DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, UN

SUBJECT: COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS: AGENDA ITEM 11 - POPPY CULTIVATION.

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT DELIVERED BY U.S. REP TO COMMISSION OF FEBRUARY 26, 1975. COMMENTS FOLLOW BY SEPTTEL.

1. WHEN THE COMMISSION EXAMINED THIS QUESTION LAST YEAR, THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTIC CONTROL BOARD'S PROJECTIONS OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND INDICATED THAT NARCOTIC RAW MATERIAL SUPPLIES WORLDWIDE MIGHT MEET MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS IN 1974, FOLLOWING A SHORTFALL IN 1973. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT'S OWN ANALYSIS SUPPORTED THIS CONCLUSION, AND WE THEREFORE BELIEVED THAT OUR DECISION TO RELEASE A SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITY OF OPIUM FROM OUR STOCKPILE WOULD ENSURE THAT U.S. COMMERCIAL INVENTORIES COULD BE MAINTAINED AT A SAFE LEVEL FOR A PERIOD OF AT LEAST SEVERAL YEARS.

2. PRODUCTION IN 1974 UNFORTUNATELY FELL BELOW EXPECTATIONS AND RAW MATERIALS ARE AGAIN INSUFFICIENT TO MEET THE DEMAND  
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FOR MEDICAL USE. CONSEQUENTLY, STOCKS ARE BEING FURTHER

REDUCED IN SOME COUNTRIES. IN THE U.S. WHERE WE TRADITIONALLY RELY ON THE IMPORTATION OF OPIUM FOR OUR MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS, WE HAVE BEEN OBLIGED TO USE THE OPIUM RELEASED FROM OUR STOCKPILE AT AN UNEXPECTEDLY ACCELERATED PACE. OVER TWO-THIRDS OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT AUTHORIZED FOR RELEASE WAS DELIVERED TO OUR MANUFACTURERS BY DECEMBER 31, 1974.

3. DEMAND WORLDWIDE FOR CODEINE IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO INCREASE. THIS IS DUE IN PART TO POPULATION INCREASE BUT ALSO AND MORE IMPORTANTLY TO IMPROVED HEALTH CARE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THIS IS THE CASE IN THE U.S. WHERE THE USE OF CODEINE HAS INCREASED AN AVERAGE OF 3,000 KILOGRAMS PER YEAR FOR THE LAST FEW YEARS.

4. IT NOW APPEARS THAT THE RESULT OF EFFORTS TO DEVELOP SUITABLE SYNTHETICS TO REPLACE THE NATURAL NARCOTIC DRUGS WILL NOT MATERIALIZE IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS. NONETHELESS, RESEARCH TO ATTAIN SUCH A GOAL SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE ACTIVELY PURSUED. THE U.S. WOULD HOPE THAT THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION WILL MONITOR DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS RESEARCH AND WILL CONTINUE PERIODICALLY TO ASSESS AND REPORT ON PROGRESS WORLDWIDE.

5. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS LIKELY TO BE FACED WITH A SUBSTANTIAL NEED FOR NARCOTIC RAW MATERIALS FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. IN ADDITION TO THE CONTINUING MEDICINAL NEED, STOCKS MUST BE REPLENISHED FROM THE LOW LEVELS WHICH CURRENTLY EXIST. AT THE SAME TIME, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT ALL PRODUCTION OF NARCOTIC RAW MATERIALS IS CAREFULLY CONTROLLED TO PREVENT DIVERSION FOR ILLICIT USE. CONCERN FOR FINDING A SOLUTION TO THE TEMPORARY SHORTAGE SHOULD NOT LEAD TO ACTION WHICH COULD RESULT IN A STEP BACKWARDS IN INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL. INCREASING SUPPLIES MUST BE PRODUCED SOLELY IN A MANNER WHICH DOES NOT INCREASE THE RISK OF DIVERSION FOR ILLICIT PURPOSES, A POLICY WHICH INDIA HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY FOLLOWING OVER THE YEARS.

6. IN ORDER FOR THE EXISTING PRODUCERS OF THE POPPY TO  
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MEET THE GROWING NEED WORLDWIDE FOR NARCOTIC RAW MATERIALS FOR MEDICAL USE WITHOUT SIGNIFICANTLY EXTENDING THE PRODUCTION AREA AND THEREBY INCREASING THE CONTROL PROBLEM, EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO MAXIMIZE MORPHINE YIELD PER HECTARE. RESEARCH CONDUCTED TO DATE AND ACTUAL PRODUCTION SUPPORT THE BELIEF THAT HIGHER YIELDS CAN BE ACHIEVED PARTICULARLY THROUGH PROCESSING PRIMARY AND SECONDARY STRAW. THE U.S. THEREFORE BELIEVES THAT RESEARCH CON-

DUCTED AND COORDINATED BY THE UN LABORATORY ON WAYS TO MAXIMIZE YIELDS FROM THE STRAW PROCESS AND FROM SELECTION OF HIGH YIELDING VARIETIES SHOULD BE CONTINUED AND ACCELERATED. THIS RESEARCH SHOULD FOCUS ON WAYS TO IMPROVE MORPHINE CONTENT, TO IMPROVE HARVESTING TECHNIQUES AND TO IMPROVE PRODUCTION YIELDS. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE ARE PLEASED TO NOTE THAT THE NARCOTICS LABORATORY IS MOVING AHEAD WITH TIMELY RESEARCH ON MORE RELIABLE METHODS FOR DETERMINING THE MORPHINE CONTENT OF POPPY STRAW. RESULTS OF THIS RESEARCH WILL BE OF OBVIOUS INTEREST TO SELLERS AND BUYERS OF POPPY STRAW AS WELL AS TO THOSE DOING RESEARCH TO IMPROVE THE MORPHINE CONTENT OF STRAW. THE STRAW PROCESS OF HARVESTING UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS IS MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO EFFECTIVE CONTROL. BUT THIS PROCESS IS NOT A FOOLPROOF SYSTEM AND REQUIRES LABORIOUS AND COMPLEX POLICING PARTICULARLY DURING THE PERIOD WHEN INCISION IS POSSIBLE. METHODS OF IMPROVING CONTROL TECHNIQUES MUST BE PROMPTLY DEVELOPED.

7. IN ORDER TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE EXPECTED INCREASE IN THE SUPPLY OF POPPY STRAW, WHICH CAN DO MUCH TO PUT IN BALANCE THE WORLD'S SUPPLY AND DEMAND FOR CODEINE, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS AUTHORIZED THE IMPORTATION OF CONCENTRATE OF POPPY STRAW. WE CAN IN THIS WAY HELP TO EXPAND THE WORLD'S CAPACITY TO USE INCREASED SUPPLIES OF STRAW. WE INTEND TO CONTINUE TO RELY ON IMPORTATION OF NARCOTIC RAW MATERIALS FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION.

8. CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN RESEARCH ON PAPAVER BRACTEATUM AS IS INDICATED IN DOCUMENT E/CN.7/571. AGAIN, THE UN LABORATORY HAS MADE A NOTEWORTHY CONTRIBUTION IN THIS AREA. SINCE PAPAVER BRACTEATUM IS A SPECIES OF POPPY THAT PRODUCES THEBAINE RATHER THAN OPIUM, WE

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ARE ENCOURAGED THAT THE WORLD COMMUNITY MAY SOON BEGIN TO SHIFT TO PRODUCTION OF A NARCOTIC RAW MATERIAL WHICH IS MORE EASILY CONTROLLABLE THAN ARE THE PRODUCTS OF THE PAPAVER SOMNIFERUM. IN THE LIGHT OF THE HIGHLY PROMISING RESULTS TO DATE, MY GOVERNMENT RECOMMENDS THAT THE UN LABORATORY CONTINUE TO GIVE THE REQUIRED RESEARCH WHICH STILL NEEDS TO BE DONE HIGH PRIORITY SO THAT IT CAN BE CONCLUDED PROMPTLY.

9. MY DELEGATION BELIEVES AS A MATTER OF PROCEDURE THAT THE MOST APPROPRIATE WAY FOR THIS COMMISSION TO CONCLUDE ITS DEBATE ON THIS ITEM WOULD BE TO ARRANGE FOR THE MAIN POINTS DISCUSSED AT THIS SESSION TO BE SUMMARIZED IN THE COMMISSION'S REPORT. THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD AND THE UN LABORATORY SHOULD BE ASKED TO REPORT ON

THIS SUBJECT AGAIN AT THE COMMISSION'S NEXT SESSION.  
IN THE MEANTIME, THE BOARD CAN KEEP UNDER CONTINUING REVIEW  
THE SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO SUPPLY AND DEMAND AND THE  
UN LABORATORY CAN CONTINUE TO ACCELERATE RESEARCH ON THE  
MOST CONTROLLABLE NARCOTIC RAW MATERIALS.

10. DEPARTMENT PLEASE POUCH TO INTERESTED POSTS. DALE

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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